

**Congressman
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.**

2018 Annual Year End Report

Serving the 26th District of Texas



In The Report

About Me	Page 3
Committee Assignments	Page 4
Caucus Memberships	Page 5
Statement of Principles	Page 6
About the 26th District	Page 7
Constituent Services	Page 8
Events and Meetings	Page 10
Legislative Work	Page 13
Letters	Page 26
Press and Communications	Page 33

Snapshot of 2018

- Continued to chair the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
- Participated in **more than 50** hearings and markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in more than **50** hearings in the Rules Committee
- Cast **489** votes, a **98.1%** vote attendance record
- Authored and introduced **18** pieces of legislation
- Cosponsored **45** pieces of legislation
- Stewarded **15** Health Subcommittee bills into law
- Resolved **434** cases with federal agencies on behalf of constituents
- Received and responded to more than **50,000** pieces of correspondence
- Traveled more than **6,000** miles in North Texas
- Held or attended more than **430** meetings
- Assisted in having **more than 120** American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol
- Honored **19** outstanding student constituents entering the U.S. Service Academies
- Participated in **30** radio interviews and **35** television interviews
- Issued more than **50** press releases and **45** weekly video addresses
- Wrote **6** Op-Eds and gave **20** newspaper interviews
- Signed more than **70** letters on issues ranging from health care to energy to national security

It is an honor to serve you in the United States House of Representatives. For the past year, I've done my best to represent you and advocate on behalf of your interests in Washington. While we have made a lot of progress in the last year to get our economy back on track and rein in the spending and overreach of the government, there is still a lot of work left to be done. In the coming year, I will continue my commitment to advancing a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda. We need to make government more efficient and reduce the bureaucratic burdens and over regulation that are stifling our economy. With dedication and commitment, we can build this great country back, and we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

About Me



After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas as an OB-GYN, I have served the constituents of the 26th District in the United States House of Representatives since 2003.

I currently serve on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee. In the 115th Congress, I assumed the role of chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and continued to serve on the Subcommittees of Oversight and Investigation and Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection. In addition, I am a member of the Rules Committee and the Helsinki Commission. In 2009, I founded the Congressional Health Caucus, on which I continue to serve .

Because of my medical background, I have been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. In 2017, I played a key role in crafting the American Health Care Act, and have worked to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act . I also have played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and have introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous goods and products from coming into this country.

As a member of Congress representing one of the fastest-growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority. In 2005, I successfully amended the Highway Bill to include development credits, design-build, and environmental streamlining. During my time on Capitol Hill, I have worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service, and transit in the North Texas region.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill, HR 1040, every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing illegal immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including: the Guardian of Small Business award from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others.

Today, I represent the majority of Denton County and parts of Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas.

I earned my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also earned a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009, was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for more than 40 years. We have three children and two grandsons.

Connect With Me
www.burgess.house.gov

 @michaelcburgess

 facebook.com/michaelcburgess

 youtube.com/MichaelCBurgessMD

Committee Assignments

Energy and Commerce Committee

I am a member of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the oldest standing legislative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and considered to be one of the most powerful committees. This committee has wide-ranging jurisdiction, presiding over all matters relating to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce in general.

This jurisdiction extends over five cabinet-level departments (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency) and many independent agencies (Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). During the 115th Congress, I am serving in the following positions:

- **Chairman, Subcommittee on Health.** Jurisdiction includes: Public health and quarantine; hospital construction; mental health; biomedical research and development; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid) and private health insurance; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.** Jurisdiction includes: oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full committee, and investigations within such jurisdiction.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection .** Jurisdiction includes: Interstate and foreign commerce, including all trade matters within the jurisdiction of the full committee; regulation of commercial practices (the Federal Trade Commission), including sports-related matters; consumer affairs and consumer protection, including privacy matters generally; data security; consumer product safety (the Consumer Product Safety Commission); product liability; motor vehicle safety; and regulation of travel, tourism, and time.

Rules Committee

The 115th Congress marked the beginning of my third term being appointed by Speaker Paul Ryan to serve on the powerful [House Rules Committee](#). Led by Chairman Pete Sessions, from Dallas, Texas, the Rules Committee establishes the parameters of debate for every bill considered by the House of Representatives on the House floor. The committee consists of nine Republicans and four Democrats and meets weekly to discuss the floor schedule and consider which bills will be advanced for debate. As a member of this committee, I am in a unique position to influence policy on every aspect of the House agenda, including issues pertaining to health care, energy, federal spending, national security, and intelligence.

- During the second session of the 115th Congress, the Rules Committee has met more than **50** times to move critical pieces of legislation to the House Floor for consideration.
- I authored and supported key amendments to major pieces of legislation during Rules Committee hearings so that those amendments could be considered by the full House. This included an amendment made in order to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that would require the Department of Defense to report to Congress how far along it is on being able to pass an audit. Due, in part, to this amendment, the Department of Defense completed [the first audit in its history](#) earlier this year.
- I managed **15** Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care, energy, and tax policy.

Caucus Membership

A Congressional caucus, also known as a Congressional Member Organization, is a group of members of the United States Congress that meets to pursue common legislative objectives. A caucus can be bi-partisan and contain members of both houses. Because a caucus is comprised of members with similar ideas and goals, it can be quite important and powerful.

Caucus Chairman/Co-Chair

- Congressional Motorcycle Caucus
- Congressional Flat Tax Caucus

Caucus Membership:

- Congressional Afghan Caucus
- Congressional Airforce Caucus
- Congressional Army Caucus
- Congressional Automotive Performance & Motorsport Caucus
- Congressional Bike Caucus
- Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans
- Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
- Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
- Congressional Diabetes Caucus
- Congressional Dyslexia Caucus
- Congressional Horse Caucus
- Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
- Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus
- Congressional Privacy Caucus
- Congressional Research and Development Caucus
- Congressional Taiwan Caucus
- Congressional Veterans Caucus
- House General Aviation Caucus



Statement of Principles for Ethical Conduct

As a Member of Congress, I have an open door policy for any constituent of the 26th District of Texas to meet with me or my staff in my [Texas office](#) or my [Washington, D.C. office](#). Other persons or groups representing communities, large or small businesses, or themselves with concerns impacting the 26th District are welcome to [request a meeting with me](#) and my staff as well. I do my very best to try and schedule as many meetings and events as possible in a timely fashion.

Such meetings or event requests are based upon need and availability and no other outside influences are taken into consideration. I take my job as a representative of the people of the 26th District very seriously, and I believe that when I am called upon to make a decision, the only voices that I look to for input are those residing within the borders of the district I represent.

The people of the 26th District have entrusted me with the responsibility of this office and I am honored to have that trust. An important part of this role is transparency. As the steward of this congressional office, it is my fiduciary duty to ensure that I conduct my personal dealings and the business of this office both ethically and with dignity. Each year I provide my [Financial Disclosure](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives as required. Additionally, each quarter the U.S. House of Representatives produces a [Statement of Disbursements](#), which provides specific information concerning the expenses and disbursements for each office. I believe it is important to be accountable and provide transparency in the dealings of our elected officials and government offices.

Focus on Constituent Services

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

- **How May I Help?** – When a federal agency has failed to respond in a timely manner to a request for assistance or has otherwise been unwilling to provide a level of relief that agency regulations appear to support, a [Congressional Inquiry](#) may be used to seek a response. While a favorable reply cannot always be promised, every review and consideration will be afforded based on the merits of the agency concern to seek either a resolution or an explanation of the limiting legal guidelines the agency must follow in relation to your concern.
- **Review** – Together we will clarify the issue, identify your progress within the inquiry process and develop a strategy to assist you in the most efficient pursuit of your goal. My office will serve as a mediator to ensure that your request is provided for full review and consideration by the appropriate officials.
- **Closure** – We will pursue an answer to either provide a satisfactory resolution to your concern or a clear explanation of the limiting legal guidelines that prevent the agency from providing the desired answer.
- **Empower** – We will seek to identify resources that may be helpful in further supporting and documenting your claim so you can maximize your appeal rights and other avenues that may be available for further assistance. Through this process I will seek to provide excellence in service of the constituent needs related to the agencies of the government.



Statement of Principles that Guide Legislative Decisions

I have a strong moral philosophy that guides my life and informs the manner in which I represent the State of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Every vote I cast in Congress starts with you, the people of the 26th District of Texas. I was sent by the people of our district to Washington not to promote any personal agenda, but to bring your voice to our nation's capital. Before each vote I ask myself, 'is the measure before us necessary, good for our district and our state, is this something my neighbors want, and is it allowed under the Constitution?' I always review your phone calls, emails, and letters before a vote to ensure that I continue to be in touch with your thoughts on the issues before Congress.

Our federal government was meant to protect the inalienable rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Thus, I will only support legislation that protects your constitutional rights and liberties and is allowed under the powers given to Congress under the Constitution. I also oppose legislation that is redundant, unnecessarily expands government control over our freedom, or increases the role of the federal government in your life.

In addition, I am committed to protecting your pocketbook. I will not support legislation that hurts the economy, slows job growth, raises taxes, or burdens the taxpayers of today or tomorrow with greater debt. Taxpayers deserve a federal government that is more efficient, less costly, and always transparent.

I am fiscally and socially conservative, and I believe that the federal government must be responsible to the people – not the other way around. Whether through my support for a balanced budget that pays down our national debt, ensuring a strong national defense, or giving people more control over their lives and their money, I am committed to shrinking the size of government to only what is necessary to assure your freedom and protect your rights.

About the 26th District of Texas

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas is located in the heart of North Texas. The 26th District includes most of Denton County, as well as large portions of Tarrant County, and a sliver of Dallas County. Cities within the 26th Congressional District include:

- In Denton County, I represent the cities of Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville, Celina, Copper Canyon, Corinth, Cross Roads, Denton, DISH, Double Oak, Draper, Flower Mound, Frisco, Hackberry, Haslet, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Justin, Krugerville, Krum, Lake Dallas, Lakewood Village, Lewisville, Lincoln Park, Little Elm, Northlake, Oak Point, Pilot Point, Ponder, Prosper, Providence Village, Roanoke, Sanger, Shady Shores, The Colony and Trophy Club.
- In Tarrant County, I represent the cities of Haltom City, Haslet, Keller, North Richland Hills, Watauga, Westlake, and Fort Worth.

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas continues to flourish. Census Bureau data report a 20 percent Denton County population growth since April 2010. Rapid growth and business expansions from Dallas and the Tarrant County area make the District a thriving economic center. The University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, North Central Texas College, and Midwestern State University anchor a large student base within the District.

Energy, agriculture and farming remain essential to the 26th District. Home to Barnett Shale, the largest field of natural gas reserves in the country, clean energy production occurs across the district. Agriculture also plays an important role in the 26th District, as ranchers raise horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, while farmers grow corn, wheat, hay, and other crops.

The 26th District also is home to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VI Headquarters in Denton, Texas, which provides assistance to a five-state region: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Its mission is to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect institutions through an emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is also home to the Denton Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Southwest Regional Office manages the leadership, safety and capacity and operational integrity for the 26th District's Lakeview Airport, Denton Municipal Airport, Northwest Regional Airport, and Alliance Airport as part of the FAA's broader five-state regional responsibilities. Housing large segments of the East and West I-35 corridors, the 26th District remains a vital artery for Texas and international transportation. The 26th District also sports the Texas Motor Speedway, which hosts two Nextel-NASCAR events in the spring and fall.



2018 Constituent Services By The Numbers

Number of cases opened with various federal agencies: **483**

- Veterans Affairs—101
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—75
- Social Security and Medicare—112
- Internal Revenue Service—26
- United States Postal Service—27
- Department of Defense—78
- Department of State—25
- Department of Education—6
- Office of Personnel Management—11
- Various other agencies—22

Constituent Correspondence:

- Received and responded to more than 50,000 pieces of correspondence

Events and Meetings:

- Traveled more than 6,000 miles in North Texas
- Hosted or attended more than 430 meetings and events
- Held 3 town hall meetings and 2 Summits

Other Services Provided:

- Provided U.S. Capitol tours to more than 1,500 North Texans
- Hosted 18 interns in my Washington, D.C. and Texas offices
- Assisted in having more than 120 flags flown over the U.S. Capitol

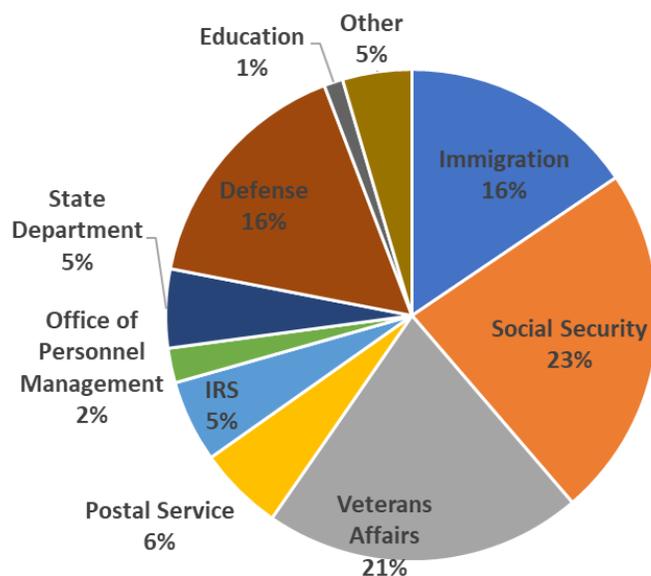
Constituent Services

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a person's behalf to answer questions, find solutions, or just cut through the red tape.

Throughout 2018, **483** constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency and I was able to resolve **434** before the end of the year. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, the Affordable Care Act, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

In addition, my office referred **838** constituents with various state and local issues to the appropriate entities. I sent **1,925** correspondences via mail providing casework updates and informational referrals. More than 50 percent of the constituents who contacted my office with concerns relating to a federal agency resided in Lewisville, Denton, Frisco, Flower Mound, Little Elm, The Colony, and Northeast Tarrant County.

SNAPSHOT OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES



Tours, Internships, and Assistance

During 2018, more than **1,500** people received a tour of the U.S. Capitol from a request that was made through my office. My Washington, D.C. office assisted more than **450** families and groups in requesting tickets for a tour of the White House this year as well. In addition, my office assisted in having more than **120** flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

My Washington, D.C. and Texas offices hosted **18** college and high school interns from such schools as the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Baylor University, Texas A&M University, Indiana University School of Law, Guyer High School (Denton), Grapevine Faith Christian School, and Flower Mound High School.

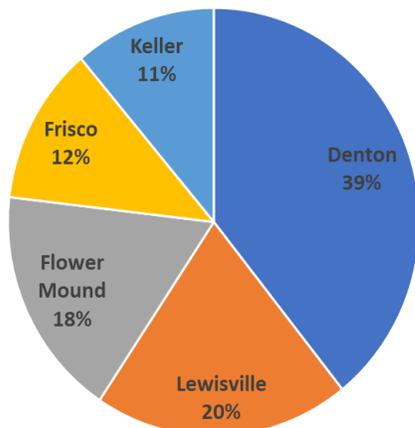


Correspondence with North Texans

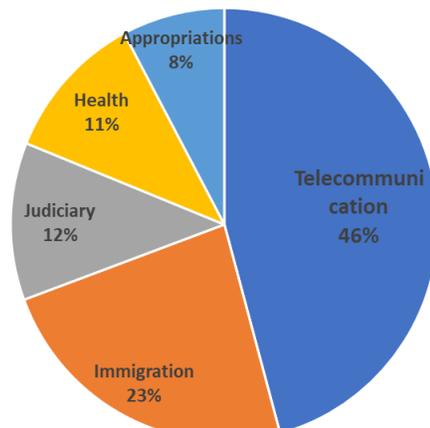
Since the beginning of 2018, more than **50,000** North Texans have contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions to me on various topics.

Telecommunication policy was by far the most common topic of communication with more than **10,000** pieces of correspondence received. That issue was followed by concerns over **immigration**, with more than **5,000** pieces of correspondence, and **judicial issues**, with more than **2,500** pieces of correspondence.

Correspondence by Town



Top Issue Areas



Events and Meetings

In 2018, I traveled more than **6,000** miles in North Texas. I held or attended more than 430 meetings, including 18 Chamber of Commerce meetings, 200 health care related meetings and events, and more than 25 speaking engagements.

Over the course of the year, I held three general town hall meetings, including in June at Denton High School, in July at Keller ISD's Central High School in Fort Worth, and in August at New Life Community Church in Frisco. I also conducted two summits that brought leaders from the local, state, and federal levels together to address key issues facing North Texans. In the spring, I hosted the annual "Artistic Discovery" High School Art Competition and co-hosted the North Texas Service Academies Forum with fellow Members of Congress.

Emergency Preparedness Summit: The 10th Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit was held on April 28 at Little Elm High School. The weather keynote speakers were Rick Mitchell, the Chief Meteorologist for NBC5, and Mark Fox, the Warning & Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service - Weather Forecast Office DFW. The event included a panel of Little Elm ISD Principals that addressed emergency preparedness at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as conversations with other local and federal emergency preparedness professionals. The summit also included exhibits with consumer information to educate families on how to be prepared for any emergency they could encounter at home, school, or work.



Energy Efficiency Summit: The 11th Annual Energy Efficiency Summit was held July 15 at the University of North Texas' Discovery Park in Denton and featured a number of speakers. The keynote presentation was given by Toyota Motor North America's Kevin Butt, General Manager – Regional Environmental Sustainability Director, who discussed technological investments and efforts to improve efficiency and reduce environmental manufacturing and operations impact. Nathan Kokes, Advanced Technology Vehicle Marketing Manager for Toyota, explained the company's commitment to using hydrogen as a fuel source. Eric Johnson, Executive Vice President, TexEnergy Solutions/US EcoLogic, discussed current residential and small business efficiency strategies. During the event, North Texans could learn more about energy efficiency from many experts and had an opportunity to "Ride and Drive" a hydrogen-powered car.

Burgess CODEL to Central America: This year, I completed a trip to the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to better understand the factors leading their citizens to make the dangerous journey to our Southwestern border. While the Energy and Commerce Committee does not oversee foreign policy, it does have jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services, which cares for the children that end up in our country from this region. The trip was highly informative. I learned that the main drivers of irregular migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to the United States are gang violence, poverty, and corruption. These issues are present throughout the region, but each country has its own unique challenges.



Since the Unaccompanied Alien Children crisis began in 2014, I have visited the Southwestern border and Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities numerous times. Recently, the number of children in custody reached the highest ever level, at a cost of over \$1 billion per year. To incentivize the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to take better care of their citizens, I have introduced bills, amendments, and a resolution restricting and redirecting foreign aid towards community-building organizations that are on the ground working to serve the people. This task isn't easy. But, if we want to ease the burden on the American taxpayer, who is currently footing the bill for the care of children from these countries, we must start addressing the factors forcing them to leave.

Special Recognition Programs

2018 Congressional Veteran Commendation

The Congressional Veteran Commendation (CVC) was created in 2005 to honor the distinguished living veterans of Texas' 26th District. This year's commendations were presented on November 10 at the annual "Salute Our Veterans" luncheon sponsored by the Highland Village Business Association and the City of Highland Village. I was pleased to present a commendation and flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to these five worthy veterans. Nominations were solicited from the public and those chosen to receive this year's Congressional Veteran Commendation were:

Virgil Aldag (US Army), Denton

Lewis Duckwall II (US Marine Corps), Lake Dallas

Paul Perez Jr. (US Air Force), Flower Mound

Christopher Martin (US Army), Argyle

Gustav Wittschack (US Army), Cross Roads



U.S. Service Academies

On April 14, I co-hosted the annual North Texas Academies Forum with 12 other congressional offices to inform high school students about the U.S. Service Academies. More than 700 students and parents attended. Students requesting appointments to the U.S. Service Academies are rigorously evaluated on a variety of criteria, including academic performance, leadership qualifications and physical preparedness. Appointments to an academy must be preceded by a nomination from a Member of Congress, Academy Superintendent, or the Vice President. The exception is the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where a nomination is not required for consideration, but appointments are based upon a competitive nationwide admissions process. The 26th District Service Academy Board is comprised of academy graduates and representatives from higher education and the community, and selects outstanding candidates through comprehensive screenings and personal interviews to be recommended for a nomination.

On June 1, 19 outstanding students residing in the 26th District of Texas who accepted appointments to the U.S. Service Academies were honored at a reception hosted by the City of The Colony. These young men and women are attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO. I presented the appointees with a Special Certificate of Congressional Recognition and an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of their appointments.



Special Recognition Programs Continued

High School Art Competition: “An Artistic Discovery”

The 16th annual 26th District Art Competition, “An Artistic Discovery,” was open to public, private and home-schooled high school students residing in or attending schools in the district. Entries were submitted digitally by art teachers on behalf of their students, providing an opportunity for the public to vote for the “Texas Choice” winner via an online gallery. Ms. Cecily Anderson was the winner of this category for her artwork entitled “Scooter”. She is a junior at Keller ISD’s Timber Creek High School in Fort Worth and her art instructor is Camille Kerr.

The competition was judged by professional artist Millie Giles, who determined the contest finalists based upon artistic merit. She selecting a “Best of School” award for one student from each school, who finalists in the competition. I presented all finalists with a “Certificate of Congressional Recognition” at a reception on May 1 at the Patterson-Appleton Art Center in Denton hosted by competition’s co-sponsor The Greater Denton Arts Council.

Ms. Lauren Foster, a junior art student of Michelle Harper at Flower Mound High School, won the Grand Prize in the 2018 competition with her color photograph entitled “American Spirit”. As the Grand Prize winner, Foster will have her artwork displayed for an entire year in the U.S. Capitol. She also attended the June national ceremony honoring the winning artists from congressional districts all over the country in Washington, D.C. In addition, Ms. Maddie Thorn, a junior at Marcus High School in Flower Mound and a student of Melissa Bellevue, won First Place for her colored pencil drawing entitled “Eagle”. Maddie will have her artwork displayed in my Lake Dallas district office for the next year.



Legislative Work



Snapshot of Legislative Accomplishments

- Participated in more than **50** hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in more than **50** hearings in the Rules Committee
- Chaired **18** Subcommittee on Health hearings
- Stewarded **15** Health Subcommittee bills into law
- Cast **489** votes, a **98.1%** attendance record
- Introduced **18** bills
- Co-sponsored **45** bills
- Member of the Helsinki Commission

Health Subcommittee

As Chairman, I presided over a busy and utmost successful year on the Energy and Commerce Committee's (E&C) Health Subcommittee. The subcommittee held 36 hearings, eight markups, and sat for a total of 110 hours during my chairmanship throughout the 115th Congress. In addition to these formal legislative efforts, I chaired numerous Member-level briefings and roundtables with government officials and public health experts that covered pressing topics ranging from maternal health and drug pricing to the influenza outbreak.

The Subcommittee on Health has broad jurisdiction over the health sector, including private and public health insurance; biomedical research and development; hospital construction; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; the 340B drug discount program; the regulation of food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

This year, much of the subcommittee's work focused on writing a comprehensive legislative package to address the opioid epidemic facing our nation. The effort began in October 2017 with a Member Day, during which over 50 bipartisan Members of Congress shared their personal stories about how the opioid crisis has devastated their communities.

Throughout the legislative process of compiling H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, our Members primarily drove the effort. We had four legislative hearings that led to a Subcommittee markup of more than 60 bills, the majority of which were ultimately marked up and passed out of the full Committee. This initiative, in conjunction with other House and Senate committees, culminated in a large bipartisan, bicameral effort that pushed H.R. 6 across the finish line. This landmark legislation involved the ideas of many Members, robust stakeholder input, and long hours of the Members and their staff. With more than 115 Americans dying from opioid overdose each day, it was the Health Subcommittee's highest priority, and I am grateful for all of our Members' hard work that led to President Trump's signing the H.R. 6 into law.

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) Program was program up for reauthorization that is particularly important in ensuring our pediatric workforce remains adequately trained and staffed. H.R. 5385, which I introduced with Ranking Member and fellow Texan Rep. Gene Green, reauthorized CHGME for another five years, with an increase in \$10 million in funding per year. It was an honor to name this reauthorization for Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks, the first female pediatric surgeon in Texas. A fellow North Texan who was born in Lewisville and grew up in Flower Mound, Dr. Brooks dedicated her life to ensuring children had the highest quality of medical care and educated others how to help her achieve her goal. President Trump signed this critical reauthorization into law on September 18, 2018.

While the CHGME program is essential to financially supporting our pediatric physician population, the Health subcommittee also marked up bills that would reauthorize currently expired physician and nurse training programs. Bills to reauthorize Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, in addition to strengthening geriatric workforce training, all passed through the Energy and Commerce Committee and by voice vote on the House floor.

Additionally, the Health Subcommittee had the job of reauthorizing the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). The timing of this reauthorization is notable, given that this year is the centennial anniversary of the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic. In that October alone, more than 100,000 Americans died as a result of the Spanish flu. A century later, thanks to congressional and government efforts, including PAHPA, our nation is substantially more prepared to respond to disease outbreaks and potential biothreats. The House passed H.R. 6378, the Pandemic and All-



Health Subcommittee

Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 on September 25th, but the bill still awaits action in the Senate. I have urged my Senate colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible, as it directly affects our nation's ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, outbreaks, and biothreats.

As the primary author of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), I made it one of my priorities as Chairman to exercise congressional oversight of the law's implementation. Most notably, the law repealed the sustainable growth rate formula for calculating annual updates to physician payment rates under Medicare. One of the most important provisions in the law was the shift from a fee schedule system towards the merit-based incentive payment system. The implementation of this payment system and the successes of alternative payment models were the subject of various hearings this year. Additionally, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included some small technical changes to MACRA that will ensure the law will be effective and providers have the opportunity to adjust to the new system.

Another monumental law that merited the Health Subcommittee's oversight was 21st Century Cures Act (Cures). This law provides hope to individuals who need it the most – individuals and families suffering from life-altering, and sometimes life-threatening illnesses. The three major policy principles outlined in Cures were biomedical research and development, mental health, and health information technology. In 2018, the subcommittee held hearings with the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Francis Collins, and the Administrator of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Scott Gottlieb, to hear about the exciting innovation they have been able to achieve thanks to Cures. We also called Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, to testify about the impactful work and critical reforms underway at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to address our country's vast behavioral health needs. To learn more about the important developments and updates in our health information technology, we called upon the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. Don Rucker, who explained how we can reduce physician burden.

Lastly, I chaired a vitally important hearing on the issue of maternal mortality. The alarming trend in our country's rate of maternal mortality first came to my attention in September 2016, when I was reading my copy of the Green journal. The original research found that the maternal mortality rate increased in 48 states and Washington, DC from 2000 to 2014, while the international trend was moving in the opposite direction. Since reading that article, I have spoken with providers, hospital administrators, state task forces, and public health experts. The Health Subcommittee had an opportunity to hear from similar folks at a hearing this September that was exceptionally moving, and troubling. While there are many unknowns regarding our maternal mortality rate, one thing we do know is that we cannot solve this problem without accurate data. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA) presented her bill, H.R. 1318, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017, which would provide grants to states to establish or improve their existing maternal mortality review committee to collect maternal mortality data. President Trump signed the bill into law. As an OB/GYN, this is a topic that gravely concerns me, and I plan to continue my work to address this issue.

As you can see, the Health Subcommittee had a busy, productive and demanding 2018, and I look forward to further, insightful dialogue on critical health care issues in the coming year.



Legislation Introduced in 2018

- **H.R. 6314**, the Health Savings Act of 2018, introduced on July 6th, would expand eligibility and access to health savings accounts (HSAs) by allowing plans categorized as catastrophic and bronze in the individual and small group markets to qualify for HSA contributions.
- **H.R. 6370**, the Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters Act, was introduced on July 13th. This bill would authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for deceptive acts related to sending patent demand letters.
- **H.Res. 1092** was introduced on September 27th. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should redirect and target foreign assistance provided to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in a manner that addresses the driving causes of illegal immigration into the United States from such countries.
- **H.R. 6050**, the Increasing Access to Care Act, was introduced on June 8th. This bill would enable individuals who are buying health insurance plans in the individual market to purchase lower premium copper (“catastrophic”) plans. In essence, this bill would restore affordable health care choices and liberty to the American people.
- **H.R. 6642**, introduced on July 31st, would sunset the limit on the maximum rebate amount for single source drugs and innovator multiple source drugs. This maximum rebate amount was established in the Affordable Care Act and may have impacted drug prices.

2018 Original Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.R. 5280** was introduced by Rep. Henry Cuellar (R-TX) on March 14. This legislation designates the Federal courthouse located in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", and to designate the jury room in that building as the "Marcel C. Notzon II Jury Room."
- **H.Res.881** was introduced by Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA) on August 5. This resolution would recognize May 3, 2018, as the 30th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer.
- **H.Res.838** was introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) on April 24. This resolution resolved that the House of Representatives honored the life of First Lady Barbara Bush. H.Res.838 was passed on April 24.
- **H.R. 7073**, the 50 Votes for the Wall Act was introduced by Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL) on October 19th. This bill would establish Border Wall and Security Trust Funds for funds appropriated to construct a border wall.
- **H.Con.Res. 140** was introduced by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) on September 26th. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress honoring Senator John McCain’s legacy as one of the greatest patriots and statesmen in U.S. history.
- **H.Con.Res. 144** was introduced by Representative Andy Biggs (R-AZ) on December 6. This resolution commemorates the anniversary of the United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.

Legislation Sponsored as Lead Republican

- **H.R. 6067**, the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act of 2018, was introduced on June 12th. This bill would establish criminal penalties for knowingly manufacturing, distributing, and using performance-enhancing drugs in all major international competitions in which U.S. athletes or U.S. entities participate.



Priority Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.R. 754**, the Anwar Sadat Centennial Celebration Act was introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) on January 31, 2017. This bill awards the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of actions to attain comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This legislation was signed into law on December 13.
- **H.R. 919**, the Portable Fuel Container Safety Act was introduced by Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) on February 7, 2017. This bill requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a final rule for flame mitigation devices in portable flammable liquid fuel containers.
- **H.Res. 1034** was introduced by Representative Tom McClintock (R-CA) on January 26. This resolution condemns Iranian state-sponsored terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and officials and Iranian dissidents.
- **H.R. 3596**, the Rightsizing Pension Premiums Act of 2017, was introduced by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA) on July 28, 2017. This legislation would modify the formula used by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) to calculate the premiums of single-employer pension plans.
- **H.R. 4107**, the USS Indianapolis Congressional Gold Medal Act was introduced by Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI) on October 24. This bill would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the crew of the USS Indianapolis.
- **H.R. 4274**, the Higher Education Reform and Opportunity (HERO) Act of 2017, was introduced by Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) on November 7, 2017. This legislation would grant more authority to the states in order to create better policy towards higher-education.
- **H.R. 4510**, the No Congressional Vehicle Leases Act was introduced by Rep. Rod Blum (R-IA) on December 1, 2017. This bill would prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for long-term or expensive vehicle leases for Members of Congress.
- **H.R. 4610**, the Receiving Electronic Statements To Improve Retiree Earnings Act, was introduced by Jared Polis (D-CO) on December 11, 2017. This legislation would authorize pension plan managers to deliver plan documents to beneficiaries and participants via electronic means.
- **H.R. 4647**, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, was introduced by Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) on December 14, 2017. This legislation would redirect \$1.3 billion in federal funds to state-level wildlife conservation programs.
- **H.R. 4924**, the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act was introduced by Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS) on February 5. This bill would reform the dispute resolution procedures for employees claiming their offices violated the rights, including protection against sexual harassment. The bill would also require Members of Congress to reimburse the Treasury for award payments to employees. This bill passed the House by voice vote on February 6.
- **H.R. 4712**, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, was introduced by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), on December 21, 2017. This legislation would protect children born alive in the case of an abortion or attempted abortion by requiring health care providers to care for them as if it was a normal birth. This bill passed the House on January 19th.
- **H.R. 5132**, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act was introduced by Rep. Edward Royce (R-CA) on March 1. This bill would expand sanctions against the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and oppose Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization.
- **H.R. 5141**, the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) on March 1. This bill authorizes \$3.3 billion annually over 10 years to Israel under the Foreign Military Financing program. This bill passed the House by voice vote on September 12.
- **H.R. 5247**, the Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) on March 13. This bill would improve access to experimental treatments for terminally ill patients and offer them another chance at life. This policy was identified by President Trump as a priority during his 2018 State of the Union address. The Senate companion bill, S. 204, passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on March 30.
- **H.R. 5252**, the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on March 13. This

Priority Cosponsored Legislation

will would authorize a grant program for a nonprofit nongovernmental entity to support oversight of the U.S. Olympic Committee and each sport's national governing body. This language was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018.

- **H.R. 5306**, the EMPOWER Care Act, was introduced by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) on March 15. This bill would reauthorize the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program. This program has been widely utilized in Texas and in many other states. This bill passed through the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote on September 13th.
- **H.R. 5336**, the Foreign Influence Transparency Act was introduced by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) on March 20. This bill would require institutes that promote the political agenda of foreign governments register as foreign entities under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.
- **H.R. 5340**, the STRONGER Patents Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH) on March 20. This bill would reform proceedings in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, eliminate fee diversion from the office, and confirm the status of patents as property rights. This bill also includes the text of my TROL Act (H.R. 6370).
- **H.R. 5526**, the Victims of Illegal Criminal Entry (VOICES) Act of 2018 was introduced by Representative John Ratcliffe (R-TX) on April 17. This bill would allow concurrent sentencing of federal immigration and state crimes.
- **H.R. 5554**, the Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) on April 18. This bill reauthorized the animal drug and animal generic drug user fees through 2023 and included necessary reforms to both programs. This bill passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on August 14th.
- **H.R. 5752**, the Stop Illicit Drug Importation Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on May 10. This bill would improve upon the government's ability to detain, refuse, and destroy drugs being imported through the U.S. postal system and inspected at our several International Mail Facilities. It was included in H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which was signed into law on October 24.
- **H.R. 5812**, the Creating Opportunities that Necessitate New and Enhanced Connections That Improve Opioid Navigation Strategies (CONNECTIONS) Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) on May 15. This bill authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help states improve upon their Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and encourages data sharing between states. It was included in H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which was signed into law on October 24th.
- **H.R. 5795**, the Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act was introduced by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Markwayne Mullin (R-OK). This bill would permit substance use disorder records to be shared among covered entities and 42 CFR Part 2 programs by aligning Part 2 with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, for the purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. This is a critical patient safety issue. A revised version of this bill, H.R. 6082, passed the House with bipartisan support by a vote of 357-57 on June 20.
- **H.R. 6032**, the SMART IoT Act was introduced by Rep. Robert Latta (R-OH) on June 7. This bill directs the Department of Commerce to conduct a study on the state of the internet-connected devices industry, or internet of things, in the U.S. This bill passed the House by voice vote on November 28th.
- **H.R. 6190**, the Keep Families Together and Enforce the Law Act was introduced by Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL) on June 21. This bill would remove the requirements of the Flores Settlement Agreement from applying to accompanied alien children and require they be kept with their parents.
- **H.R. 6195**, the Protect Kids and Parents Act was introduced by Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA) on June 22. This bill would mandate that illegal immigrant families be kept together, provide for expedited processing of asylum cases, double the number of federal immigration judges, and authorize temporary shelters.
- **H.R. 6268**, the Preventing Unionization of Revenue Service Employees (PURSE) Act, was introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) on June 28. This legislation would prohibit any employee of the Internal Revenue Service from taking part in a union or collective bargaining.

Priority Cosponsored Legislation

- **H.R. 6311**, the Increasing Access to Lower Premium Plans and Expanding Health Savings Accounts Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Peter Roskam (R-IL) on July 6. The bill would allow the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credit to be used for qualified plans offered outside of the individual market exchanges. It also would expand access to the lowest-premium plans available ("catastrophic", or copper, plans) for all individuals purchasing coverage in the individual market and allows the premium tax credit to be used to offset the cost of such plans. This bill was included in H.R. 6314, the Health Savings Act of 2018, and passed the House on July 25.
- **H.R. 6314**, the Health Savings Act of 2018, introduced on July 6, would expand eligibility and access to health savings accounts (HSAs) by allowing plans categorized as catastrophic and bronze in the individual and small group markets to qualify for HSA contributions.
- **H.R. 6553**, the Our Communities, Our Choices Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) on July 26. This bill would require consultation with state and local elected officials and a public hearing before housing unaccompanied alien children in a facility that is not on federal property.
- **H.R. 6633**, the Turkey International Financial Institutions Act was introduced by Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) on July 26. This bill would restrict U.S. support for loans from international financial institutions to Turkey until it frees arrested U.S. citizens.
- **H.R. 6733**, the Know the Cost Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Earl "Buddy" Carter (R-GA) on September 7. The bill prohibits the use of so-called "gag clauses" by health plans and Pharmacy Benefit Managers. "Gag clauses" prohibit pharmacists from sharing with patients that they could save money by paying for their prescription out of pocket instead of through their insurance plan. Senate companion legislation, S. 2553 and S. 2554, passed the House and was signed into law on October 10.
- **H.R. 6774**, the Iran Payments Accountability Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI) on September 12. This bill would require a report to Congress on Iran's use of assets received from sanctions relief and require the Secretary of State to demand repayment of any U.S. funds used to sponsor terrorist organizations or activities, including military operations in Syria.
- **H.R. 6810** was introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) on September 13. This bill would express the sense of Congress that the President should revoke the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to Bill Cosby and make it a crime to wear a medal that has been revoked.
- **H.R. 6933**, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2018, was introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) on September 27. This legislation would eliminate Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and replaces it with a formula that properly accounts for a public servant's work history.
- **H.R. 7059**, the Build the Wall, Enforce the Law Act of 2018 was introduced by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) on October 12. This bill would fully fund a border wall, combat sanctuary cities, gangs, and human trafficking, and support Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- **H.J.Res. 130** was introduced by Rep. Ted Budd (R-NC) on February 27. This resolution honors the life of Billy Graham.
- **H.Con.Res. 140** was introduced by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) on September 26. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress honoring Senator John McCain's legacy as one of the greatest patriots and statesmen in U.S. history.
- **H.Res. 785** was introduced by Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX) on March 15. This resolution expresses support for continued cooperation between Israel and the U.S. to counter Iran's destabilizing activities.
- **H.Res. 926** was introduced by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) on June 6. This resolution condemns Russian transgressions against international law and FIFA values during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.
- **H.Res. 1035** was introduced by Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX) on July 26. This resolution expresses opposition to the completion of the Nord Stream II pipeline from Russia. It passed the House on December 11.

Priority Health Care Accomplishments

- **H.R. 6**, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, introduced on June 13th with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ). This bill included comprehensive actions to address substance use disorder treatment, recovery, and prevention. This package passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on October 24.
- **H.R. 315**, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, was introduced on January 5, 2017. This bill would establish a maternity care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation, in addition to dental, mental health, and primary care, so that maternity professionals who wish to participate in a primary care shortage area can seek placement in communities that need them most. This bill passed the House on suspension on January 9, 2017, which was within four days of introduction. This bill also passed the House in the 114th Congress. The bill passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on November 29. President Trump signed this bill into law on December 17.
- **H.R. 880**, the MISSION ZERO Act, was introduced on February 6, 2017. This bill provides grants to allow military trauma care providers and teams to offer care in our nation's leading trauma centers and systems. This bill passed the House twice – once as a standalone bill, and another time as part of H.R. 6378, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018.
- **H.R. 938**, the Medicaid Third Party Liability Act, was introduced on February 7, 2017. This bill modifies Medicaid third party liability rules regarding payer of last resort requirements and applies third party liability requirements to CHIP, among other things. Some of the provisions of this legislation were included in H.R. 1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which was signed into law on February 9.
- **H.R. 2410**, the Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017, was introduced on May 11, 2017 with Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL). This bill would authorize grants to agencies to conduct surveillance and organize data on the millions of patients with Sickle Cell Disease. This legislation provides an important step forward in advancing our understanding of sickle cell disease and maintaining access to services for those affected. This bill passed the House on February 26, but was amended in the Senate. The Senate version of the bill, S. 2465, was adopted by the House and then signed into law by President Trump on December 18.
- **H.R. 3120** was introduced on June 29, 2017. This bill repealed the requirement that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services make meaningful use standards more stringent over time. The bill will reduce physician burden and allow physicians to better comply with standards. This bill passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law as part of H.R. 1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 on February 9.
- **H.R. 3263**, the Independence at Home Demonstration Improvement and Extension Act of 2017, was introduced



Priority Health Care Accomplishments

on July 17, 2017. The bill extends a successful Medicare demonstration for an additional two years and increases the cap on the number of participating beneficiaries. This bill passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law as part of H.R. 1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 on February 9.

- **H.R. 3728**, the EMPOWER Act of 2018, was introduced on September 11, 2017. This bill would reauthorize various workforce programs included in Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. While Congress has appropriated funding for Title VII physician workforce programs in recent years, it is essential that we reauthorize the programs to ensure longer-term stability. These programs are vital to building and maintaining a well-educated, well-trained physician workforce. This bill passed the House by voice vote on July 23 and awaits further action by the Senate.
- **H.R. 3921** was introduced on October 3, 2017. This bill extended funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a program that is vital to health care access for more than eight million low-income children across the country, for an additional five years. Additionally, this legislation delays the \$5 billion in cuts to many of the hospitals across the country from the ACA-mandated Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Reductions for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. This bill passed the House on November 3, 2017 as part of the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act (H.R. 3922).
 - While it was long overdue, a six-year CHIP reauthorization passed the Senate and was signed into law as part of a funding package (H.R. 195) on January 22, 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892), which was signed into law on February 9, included an additional four-year extension of CHIP funding, for a total of ten years of funding.
- **H.R. 4987** was introduced on February 8. This bill made technical amendments to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System that was established by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. This bill was included in H.R. 1892, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on February 9.
- **H.R. 5333**, the Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2018, was introduced with Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) on March 19. This bill would reform the over-the-counter monograph framework to increase efficiency and effectiveness. This bill passed the House on July 16 by voice vote.
- **H.R. 5385**, the Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2018, was introduced with Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) on March 22. This bill reauthorized the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education program for five years, with a funding increase. This bill passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on September 18.
- **H.R. 5806**, the 21st Century Tools for Pain and Addiction Treatment Act, was introduced on May 15. This bill directs the Food and Drug Administration to hold a public meeting and issue or update guidance documents for the purpose of clarifying expedited regulatory pathways for non-addictive products to treat pain and addiction.
 - The bill language was included in H.R. 6, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, which passed both chambers of Congress and was signed into law on October 24.



2018 Legislative Accomplishments

- **No Armed Drones Act, H.R. 129:** On October 5th, President Trump signed, H.R. 302, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, into law, which included the text of my No Armed Drones Act. This language prohibits the operation of an unmanned aircraft (drone) that is equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon unless authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration. The use of drones for recreational and business operations is increasing. While many Americans are responsible operators, there have been instances of home-made weaponized drones by private citizens. My bill takes a preemptive, rather than reactive, step to protect all Americans.
- **H.R. 302** also reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration for five years, modernizing airport infrastructure, enhancing aviation safety, and improving customer service by requiring minimum seat size standards and outlining passenger rights.
- **Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018, H.R. 5252:** I cosponsored Rep. Ted Poe's (R-TX) bill that was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. The Keep Young Athlete's Safe Act established a grant program to support nonprofit nongovernmental entities, like the U.S. Center for Safesport, to safeguard amateur athletes against abuse in sport. The widespread abuse by former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nasser is a terrible tragedy. The effects of this scandal were felt acutely in Texas, former home of the USA Gymnastics Olympic Training Center and countless young athletes. With implementation of this grant program, we are working to end abuse in sport.
- **STOP School Violence Grant Program:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 included language authorizing grants for school safety and improvement programs. I worked to ensure that physical improvements to schools, such as the application of ballistic-rated material to classroom components and structures, would be an eligible use of grant funding. I also cosigned letter led by Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) and Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL) to the Department of Justice asking them to expedite implementation of the grant program.

2018 Accomplishments

- **Pentagon's First Audit:** On November 16th, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced completion of its first ever full-scope, department-wide, financial statement audit. In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act requiring every Department and Agency in the Federal Government to produce verifiable financial statements that can be fully audited. Until this year, each major Agency completed this task except the DoD. That is why I introduce an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) each year requiring the DoD to rank every entity within the DoD from most ready to be audited to least ready. This amendment has been signed into law for the past 3 fiscal years and the DoD has submitted the required report. Despite failing the audit, its completion provides a much-needed baseline from which to begin additional oversight.
- **Seeking Solutions to our Immigration Crisis:** Each month, tens of thousands of migrants stream across our southern border from Central American countries without the benefit of legal status. Thousands are unaccompanied alien children. But the desire to come to the United States goes beyond the promise of opportunity; it begins at home in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This August, I traveled to these Northern Triangle countries to learn first-hand how we can combat the drivers of irregular migration. Throughout this region, poverty and corruption contribute significantly to humanitarian deficiencies. Many are also fleeing gang violence and depressed economic conditions. America's foreign aid funds are better spent helping to provide a safe home for children in Central American countries than spend caring these children in taxpayer-funded shelters once they reach our borders. I have introduced several pieces of legislation to better direct aid and motivate Central American governments to create a safe home for their people. You can read more about this trip at my [website](#).



2018 Accomplishments

- **Oversight of Facebook and Twitter:** Following the Cambridge Analytica data breach and reports of biased content moderation at Twitter, the Energy and Commerce Committee held hearings to question the CEOs of these powerful companies. The collection and use of consumer information must be done transparently and companies must be held accountable to keep this information secure. Social media companies are becoming stewards of social norms by determining how and what content users can access. I questioned Mark Zuckerberg on the elements of a company’s “terms and conditions” that indicate strong consumer protections, and I requested Jack Dorsey apologize for harmful content that Twitter allowed to proliferate. This conversation is far from over, and I will continue to work towards appropriate privacy content moderation policies.



Motorcycle Caucus

The Congressional Motorcycle Caucus (CMC) supports riders – both on-and-off street – through education and awareness in order to encourage responsible motorcycling. The CMC also serves to ensure that motorcycling, and those enjoying the activity, is treated equitably by Congress as it considers infrastructure and environmental policies, as well as safety and education programs. Here is a list of CMC actions this Congress:

- On February 7th, 2017, the caucus sent a letter to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao asking that more members of the motorcycling community be eligible to serve on the Federal Highway Administration’s Motorcyclist Advisory Council.
- On March 15th, 2017, the caucus sent a letter then-Acting U.S. Trade Representative Stephen Vaughn requesting he consider alternative measures to resolving a beef trade dispute with the EU by removing motorcycles from the potential list of retaliatory tariffs.
- On April 26th, 2017, I gave welcome remarks at the Motorcycle Industry Council fly-in with co-chair Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI).
- On May 5th, 2017, Rep. Walberg and I introduced H.Res. 318, a resolution promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.
- On May 8th, 2018, I gave a floor speech recognizing May is Motorcycle Awareness Month.
- On May 15th, 2018, the caucus co-hosted with the Motorcycle Riders Foundation a virtual reality riding experience by Stacey “Ax” Axmaker.
- On May 22nd, 2018, the caucus co-hosted with the Motorcycle Industry Council a briefing on Intelligent Transportation Systems and Automated-Vehicle Applications Impacts on Motorcycle Safety.

Helsinki Commission: Commission on Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The Helsinki Commission is an independent federal agency created in 1976 to monitor and encourage compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, or Helsinki Accords. The Commission consists of nine members from the U.S. Senate, nine members from the U.S. House of Representatives, and one member each from the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce. The Commission convenes public hearings and briefings on OSCE-related topics, issues public reports and organizes official delegations to participating states. The Commission includes 57 participating states and 11 partners for cooperation.

Countering Russian Influence: In 2018, the Helsinki Commission maintained a focus on Russian physical and digital aggression. Russia's attempt to influence our 2016 election was not the only goal; Russia is conducting a long-term campaign to undermine the U.S.-led liberal democratic order. Previously, Russia conducted campaigns against Estonia, Georgia, and Ukraine, including the 2014 annexation of Crimea. Most recently, Russia assaulted and captured three Ukrainian naval vessels near the Sea of Azov in an attempt to provoke further hostility. In addition to disinformation efforts in the U.S., Russia is aiming to disrupt the European Union and sow distrust of NATO to accelerate its dissolution. It is paramount that the United States engages with the American public and our allies to ensure that Russia's hybrid war fails. The Helsinki Commission is doing just that by focusing many of its hearings and briefings on Russia's activities.

Combatting Doping in International Sport: In 2016, whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of Russia's Anti-Doping Center, revealed a massive state-sponsored doping scandal that allowed more than 1,000 Russian athletes to compete while using illegal substances. State-sponsored doping was ubiquitous within Russian sports and had been going on for over a decade. The McLaren Report corroborated Rodchenkov's claims, resulting in Russia's ban from the 2018 Winter Olympics. Despite this ban, the World Anti-Doping Agency has reinstated Russia's Anti-Doping Agency, the very organization that facilitated the doping scandal. In addition, U.S. intelligence officials have stated that Russia's attempt to influence the 2016 election was partly in response to the disclosure of the doping scandal, which Russia blames on the United States. To seek justice for defrauded American athletes and prevent further doping in international sport, I introduced the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act (RADA) with Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee. This bill would establish criminal penalties for knowingly manufacturing, distributing, and using performance-enhancing drugs in all major international competitions in which U.S. athletes or U.S. entities participate. Following introduction, I chaired a Helsinki Commission hearing where we heard from a defrauded U.S. athlete, and former Russian athlete forced to dope, and other stakeholders. I will continue working to pass this bill to restore the integrity of international sport.

Passage of H.R. 1911: Last year, I cosponsored the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018 to elevate the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the Department of State to the rank of Ambassador. On September 13th of this year, the House passed this bill by a vote of 393 to 2.



Sponsored Legislation Offered on Behalf of the Rules Committee on the House Floor

In 2018, I managed **15** Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

Amendments Offered in the House Rules Committee

I supported key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including legislation passed by the Energy & Commerce Committee.

- **H.R. 6157:** I offered an amendment to the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 6157, the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act. The amendment would have required the Department of Health and Human Services to submit certain reports on the Office of Refugee Resettlement to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **H.R. 120:** I offered the text of my bill, the UAC Assistance Control Act, as an amendment to H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act. My amendment would have directed the President to reduce foreign assistance allocations for Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador by an amount equal to the number of unaccompanied alien children who are nationals or citizens of any of those countries placed in federal custody in the preceding fiscal year because of their immigration status multiplied by \$15,000. This language would have helped incentivize the governments of those countries to provide a safe home for their citizens so the desire to migrate to the United States would decrease.
- **Redirecting Foreign Assistance:** I offered an amendment to H.R. 6157, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2019, to redirect foreign assistance for Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, or El Salvador based on the number of Unaccompanied Alien Children from each country multiplied by \$15,000 to regional and municipal governments, educational institutions, private entities, non-governmental organizations, or faith-based organizations of and operating in each country. This amendment would have placed foreign assistance directly with the organizations working to combat the drivers of irregular migration.
- **ORR Reports:** I offered an amendment to H.R. 6157, the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2019, to require detailed information on the procedures the Administration follows when child sexual abuse is alleged at facilities operated by Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) contractors include whether such abuse is alleged to have been perpetrated by an officer or employee of ORR, a contractor of ORR, or a grant recipient of ORR. This amendment would have helped conduct oversight of ORR facilities to ensure a safe environment unaccompanied alien children in their custody.

Amendments Offered on the House Floor

- **H.Amdt.918:** The House accepted this amendment to the FY2019 Omnibus appropriations legislation, to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from abusing U.S. Code Title 42 Public Health Services Act, which authorizes the hiring of government employees outside of the normal "GS" pay-scale. While written exclusively for the Department of Health and Human Services in order to incentivize health care industry leaders to work for the federal government in unique circumstances, the EPA has used Title 42 since 2006 to hire dozens of new employees off the GS pay scale. This has cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars for just 50 employees. H.Amdt.918 prohibits the EPA from hiring any new employees under Title 42, or transferring any current employees from the GS-scale to Title 42.
- **H.Amdt.554:** The House accepted this amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 to prohibit the operation of an unmanned aircraft (drone) that is equipped with a dangerous weapon unless authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration. Several incidents over the past few years have shown how easy it is to home-make a weaponized drone. In response, I have introduced this language as a stand-alone bill since the 112th Congress. I am pleased that it was included in the FAA reauthorization bill to better align policy with current technology and protect Americans from drones armed by private citizens.

Letters I Led

- On March 9, I sent a letter to President Trump expressing my support for his use of section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum.
- On March 15, I sent a letter to Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) requesting he preserve evidence-based technology and equipment as an eligible use of grant funding in S. 2495 as it moves through the legislative process.
- On March 26, I sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt concerning the Title 42 hiring authority through the EPA.
- On March 26, I sent a letter to Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry regarding preserving consumer choice in the lightbulb industry.
- On May 9, I led a letter with Representative Bobby Rush(D-IL) and joined by 52 Members of Congress to Federal Trade Commission Chairman Joseph Simons outlining concerns with proposed rule changes to the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumer Act because this unnecessary paperwork mandate would pose a costly regulatory burden and does not address illegal sales.
- On May 16, I sent a letter to Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar in support of the nomination of Jonathan D. Leffert, M.D. to the National Clinical Care Commission (NCCC).
- On September 27, I sent a letter to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo discussing my August 2018 visit to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. I urged the Secretary to direct foreign aid funding in these countries towards non-governmental organizations and local governments addressing irregular migration.
- On October 4, I sent a letter to Chairman of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), Ajit Pai in support of the FCC's recent efforts to crack down on illegal robocalls, enforce a safer and more workable environment for consumers, and seek feedback on key outstanding Telephone Consumer Protection Act issues following the D.C. Circuit Court ruling that overturned portions of a past FCC interpretation.



Letters I Signed as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee in 2018

During 2018, I sent 36 Letters as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee for Energy and Commerce.

- On March 5, I sent **2 letters on maternal and infant mortality** with Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, Director of the Washington D.C. Department of Health and Mr. Matthew Hamilton, CEO of United Medical Center to request information on the quality of maternal and infant care being provided in the District of Columbia's Medicaid program following recent news reports about the deaths of a mother and child at a D.C. hospital increased rates of maternal and infant mortality.
- On March 9, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send **4 letters on the oversight of patient safety in Medicare and Medicaid hospitals**. These letters were sent to the CEOs of three healthcare companies and the Chairman of the Bureau of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program requesting information on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) survey process and these organizations' interactions with CMS to ensure that patient safety is provided for and that federal standards are adhered to in hospitals participating in CMS programs.
- On August 16, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send **7 letters on prescription drug pricing**. These letters were sent to the CEOs of seven healthcare companies to seek additional information about the role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers and their effect on downstream prices for consumers.
- On September 27, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr.(D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (R-COz), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green to send **3 letters on the opioid crisis**. These letters were sent to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, and Drug Enforcement Agency Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon requesting info on the threat of fentanyl shipped from China and trafficked from Mexico.

I sent 7 letters to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

- On January 23, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Health Subcommittee Vice-Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-KY) to send a letter to Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting that the Government Accountability Office assess Medicaid to determine opportunities to improve the management and delivery of benefits by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of programs.
- On February 2, I wrote a letter to Comptroller General Gene Dodaro asking to be added as a requester onto the Government Accountability Office study regarding the consequences and costs of untreated mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
- On March 26, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting that the Government Accountability Office review the role of stakeholders in preventing duplicate drug discounts within the 340B program.
- On March 26, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to send a letter to the Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting that the Government Accountability Office examine the distribution of high-expenditure Medicaid enrollees across states, factors influencing state variation in spending, efforts of federal and state agencies to manage costs, and successful strategies identified to reduce costs for high-expenditures beneficiaries while ensuring quality care.
- On March 26, I joined Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to send a letter to Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting that the Government Accountability Office examine the outcomes of strategies to reduce childhood obesity and promote healthy behavior and the effectiveness of Department of Health and Human Services grant design and evaluation processes for future policy decisions.
- On December 12, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to the Comptroller General Gene Dodaro requesting the General Accountability Office examine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards and regulations and identify challenges in biosafety and security concerns with the management of dangerous pathogens at

Letters I Signed as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee in 2018

federal laboratories.

- On December 12, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to the Comptroller General Gene Dorado requesting that the Government Accountability Office assess the potential uses of artificial intelligence in healthcare, including: diagnostics, the discovery and development of new drugs, and the administration of services.

I sent 4 letters to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

- On March 9, I joined Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma requesting information on its survey process and interactions with providers to ensure that patient safety is provided for and that federal standards are adhered to in hospitals participating in CMS programs.
- On March 22, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and 7 Members of Congress to send a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma requesting additional information on CMS's oversight of the Medicaid drug rebate program amid concerns that misclassification of prescription drugs resulted in higher federal and state Medicaid expenditures.
- On March 26, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma regarding CMS's implementation of the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program eligibility reviews for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and additional information to improve oversight and measurement of error rates in eligibility determinations for these programs.
- On April 2, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS), and Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) to send a letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma to request information regarding CMS's role in overseeing Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Nursing Facilities (NFs), including the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills and other health care facilities where Dr. Jack Michel has an ownership interest, as well as information and documents related to CMS's oversight of all SNFs and NFs participating in CMS programs, especially relating to reports of sexual abuse and neglect.

I sent 3 letters to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

- On February 20, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar to address concerns regarding a FY 2017 audit of HHS and request information on concrete steps taken to remediate violations in federal statute.
- On March 15, I joined Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health Chairman Peter Roskham (R-IL), and 12 Members of Congress, to send a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar and CMS Administrator Seema Verma regarding Part I and Part II of the CMS's Calendar Year 2019 Advanced Notice and Call Letter and requesting additional information on several issues of concerns to better under CMS's proposed course of action.
- On March 22, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), Subcommittee on Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO) to send a letter to HHS Inspector General Daniel Levinson to request additional information referenced in its December 2017 report on CMS' oversight of manufacturer-reported classifications for drugs in the Medicaid Rebate program.

I sent 3 letters to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- On February 2, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to FDA Administrator Scott Gottlieb to express concerns regarding the Chinese heparin market.

Letters I Signed as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee in 2018

- On June 8, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX), Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL) to send a letter to FDA Administrator Scott Gottlieb to request information about the implementation of his priorities at the FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations, noting the Committee's concerns about whether the agency is appropriately prioritizing its resources to protect against unapproved opioids and other potentially harmful products at our nation's points of entry.
- On September 27, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX) to send a letter to FDA Administrator Scott Gottlieb to express concerns with the FDA's laboratory safety response to the discovery of vials of infectious pathogens that were improperly handled.

I sent 1 letter to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

- On April 16, I led a letter with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) to CBO Director Dr. Keith Hall to request that a CBO report to the committee include reasons why managed care spending is lower than enrollment and how states' use of managed care has changed over time.

I sent 1 letter to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

- On July 27, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to FTC Chairman Joseph Simons to request a review of past mergers involving Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to see how those mergers affected downstream consumer prices and whether those mergers helped plan sponsors save money.

I sent 1 letter to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission

- On August 30, I joined Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) to send a letter to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission Chairman Dr. Francis Crosson requesting research on hospital consolidation and its impact on increased costs for the Medicare program and its beneficiaries.



Letters I Cosigned in 2018

Snapshot

In 2018, I cosigned more than **25** letters about issues that are important to North Texans:

- **Regulation, Energy, and Environment: 5**
- **Health, Pro-Life, Adoption: 6**
- **Nominations and Recognitions: 5**
- **International Relations and Trade: 3**
- **Amicus Briefs: 4**
- **Transportation: 2**
- **Immigration: 3**
- **Others: 3**

- On January 11, I signed a letter led by Representative Lamar Smith (R-TX), and joined by 27 Members of Congress, to Chairman Granger MacDonald of the National Association of Homebuilders in recognition of his leadership in the industry and the expansion of home construction across Texas.
- On January 19, I signed a letter led by Representative Matt Gaetz (R-FL), and joined by 63 Members of Congress, to the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) Devin Nunes to request that a four-page memo written by HPSCI staff regarding a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) warrant for Carter Page be immediately released to the public in order to provide transparency to the American people.
- On January 22, I signed a letter led by Representative Lamar Smith (R-TX), and joined by 32 Members of Congress, to President Trump in support of an E-Verify employment eligibility verification program as a part of any immigration reform.
- On February 2, I signed a letter led by Representative Ryan Costello (R-PA) and joined by 15 Members of Congress, to the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Dr. Scott Gottlieb requesting that the FDA use its legal authority and require all entities engaged in medical device servicing to register, report deaths or serious injuries, and to establish a quality management system, in order to protect the safety of patients and the integrity of medical devices.
- On March 2, I signed an amicus brief led by Representative Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) in support of President Trump's appointment of Mick Mulvaney as Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, citing presidential power under the Vacancies Reform Act.
- On March 8, I signed a letter led by Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ), and joined by 22 Members of Congress, to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in support of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program to study lease sales across the OCS planning areas.
- On April 11, I signed a letter led by Representative Mike Bishop (R-MI), and joined by 32 Members of Congress, to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma requesting clarification of the Continuous Glucose Monitor coverage policy to support data sharing and smartphone applications.
- On April 11, I signed a letter led by Representative Trey Gowdy (R-SC), and joined by 16 Members of Congress, to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker in support of the confirmation of Michael R. Pompeo as Secretary of State.
- On April 30, I signed a letter led by Representative Ron Estes (R-KS), and joined by 152 Members of Congress, to Health and Human Services urging Secretary Alex Azar to ensure clear separation of abortion activities from federally-funded Title X family planning services.

Letters I Cosigned in 2018

- On May 2, I signed a letter led by Representative Luke Messer(R-IN), and joined by 15 Members of Congress, to nominate President Donald J. Trump for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his work to end the Korean War, denuclearize the Korean peninsula, and bring peace to the region.
- On May 14, I signed a letter led by Representative Diane Black(R-TN), and joined by 5 Members of Congress, to Oliver North, congratulating him for being selected as the president of the National Rifle Association and in support of his important role in defending our Second Amendment rights.
- On May 16, I signed a letter led by Representatives Edward Royce (R-CA) and Eliot Engel (D-NY) and joined by 170 Members of Congress, urging Taiwan's unconditional inclusion as an observer at the 71st World Health Assembly and future meetings.
- On May 21, I signed a letter led by Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), and joined by 4 Members of Congress, to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. General Todd Semonite requesting clarity on the August 28, 2017 release of water from the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs during the heavy rainfall of Hurricane Harvey in order to ensure preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season..
- On May 23, I signed a letter led by Representative Mike Kelly (R-PA), and joined by 68 Members of Congress and 12 Senators, in support of faith based agencies for foster care and adoption.
- On May 24, I signed a letter led by Representatives Bill Posey (R-FL) and Diane Black (R-TN) and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), and joined by 16 Members of Congress and 2 Senators, to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney regarding the upcoming rule repeal of emission requirements for glider vehicles to request that the Regulatory Impact Analysis for the rule be waived in order to avoid unnecessary delay for this deregulatory action.
- On May 29, I signed a letter led by Representative John Rutherford (R-FL), and joined by 20 Members of Congress, to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions in support of the STOP School Violence Act and school security programs funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018. The letter encourages the Attorney General to promote awareness of these funding opportunities and eligibility to states.
- On May 31, 2018 I signed an amicus brief for *Gee v. Planned Parenthood of Gulf Coast*, led by Congressman Mike Johnson (R-LA). This brief argued that the Supreme Court should grant certiorari to the state of Louisiana, which terminated its Medicaid contract with Planned Parenthood following the release of undercover videos in 2015.
- On June 1, I signed a letter led by Representative Chris Smith (D-NJ), and joined by three Members of Congress, to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo in support of Representative Robert Pittenger to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- On June 7, I signed a letter led by Representative Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) and Senator Joni K. Ernst (R-IA), and joined by 53 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar concerning multiple instances when Planned Parenthood employees failed to report the sexual abuse of minors in their care. The letter requests an investigation into Planned Parenthood and other Title X recipients to determine how widespread is the failure to report abuse.
- On June 7, I signed a letter led by Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI), and joined by 17 Members of Congress, to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt requesting that the EPA extend its previously established compliance regulations for the operation and maintenance of underground storage tanks. Due to the overwhelming infrastructure requirements and financial investments, we requested that the EPA extend compliance deadlines from October 13, 2018 to October 13, 2024.
- On June 29, I signed a letter led by Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and joined by 31 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar to examine the operations of the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- On July 2, I signed a letter led by Representative Fred Upton (R-MI), and joined by Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN) to Acting Assistant Secretary Steven Wagner and Director Scott Lloyd requesting clarification on the Office of Refugee Resettlement's process for verifying the relationship between children and adults separated at the border.

Letters That I Cosigned in 2018

Specifically, the letter inquiries about the use DNA analysis technology.

- On July 9, 2018 I signed a letter led by Representative Steve Womack (R-AR) and joined by 30 Members of Congress, to express concern with the proposed 2019 Renewable Volume Obligations under the Renewable Fuel Standard that would constitute a breach of the ethanol blend wall, jeopardizing automobile reliability and harming American consumers.
- On July 19, I signed an amicus brief led by Representative Vicki Hartzler (R-MO), and joined by 46 Members of Congress, in support of Congress only permitting guest chaplains that seek divine guidance. This brief is in response to Congress being sued for not allowing a non-divine seeking individual as a guest chaplain.
- On July 23, I signed a letter led by Representative Pete Olson (R-TX) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), and joined by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and 12 other Members of Congress, to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Deputy Administrator Heidi King supporting NHTSA and their transparency regarding the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards review process. The letter requests that the NHTSA thoroughly review rules and regulations in order to promote new technologies.
- On September 28, I signed a letter led by Representatives Bradley Byrne (R-AL) and Ron Estes (R-KS), and joined by 35 Members of Congress, requesting that the U.S. Department of Labor develop a rulemaking to clarify the current standard for determining Joint Employer Status under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- On December 4, I signed a letter led by Representative Scott DesJarlais (R-TN), and joined by 16 Members of Congress, to Secretary of Defense James Mattis to ensure the implementation of Medical Readiness Training to advance trauma care by recommending an official strategic partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians to improve the Tactical Combat Casualty Care Training.
- On December 12, I signed a letter led by Representatives Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), and joined by 51 Members of Congress, to Acting Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Daniel Elwell expressing support for Section 152 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which authorizes the FAA to provide Airport Improvement Program grants from the small airport fund to contract towers.
- On December 12, I signed a letter led by Representative Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), and joined by 53 Members of Congress, to the Acting Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Daniel Elwell informing him of the provisions supporting the contract tower program in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, and urging the FAA to follow the statutes laid out in the reauthorization when implementing provisions to enhance air traffic safety at smaller and rural airports nationwide.
- On December 21, I signed a letter led by Representative Bill Flores (R-TX) and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), and joined by 37 Members of Congress, to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson requesting a de-commissioned Air Force One be placed the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library.



Press and Communications

Snapshot of Press and Communications

- Over **50** press releases issued
- More than **50** e-newsletters sent
- Over **100** YouTube videos posted
- **45** weekly video addresses published
- More than **30** radio interviews
- Remarks at more than **50** events
- **6** OpEds
- **20** newspaper interviews
- More than **35** television interviews
 - **16** on local stations
 - **9** on Fox Business
 - **7** on Fox News
- **9%** increase in Twitter followers
- **5%** increase in Facebook likes



Television Interviews

Here are a sampling of the more than 30 television interviews that I gave this year:

- [NBC 5's "Lone Star Politics"-Funding for CHIP](#) January 8, 2018
- [MSNBC's Ali Velshi-Government Shutdown](#) January 21, 2018
- [Lone Star Politics-2nd Amendment](#) March 4, 2018
- [Inside Texas Politics-Opioid Crisis](#) March 25, 2018
- [BBC World News- Facebook](#) April 11, 2018
- ["The Daily Briefing with Dana Perino"- Immigration Legislation](#) June 21, 2018
- ["After The Bell"-Hurricane Florence](#) September 14, 2018
- ["Mornings with Maria"-Judge Kavanaugh](#) October 4, 2018
- [Fox News-Border Security](#) December 10, 2018



Press Releases

In 2018, I sent more than 50 press releases. Below are a few examples:

- [Burgess Statement on the State of the Union Address](#), January 30, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on Jerusalem Embassy](#), May 14, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on Childhood Cancer STAR Act](#), June 5, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on North Korea](#), June 12, 2018
- [Burgess Offers a Path to Secure Borders](#), July 30, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on House Passage of Sweeping Bill to Combat Opioid Abuse](#), October 28, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on DOD's First Agency-Wide Audit](#), November 16, 2018
- [Burgess Statement on Migrant Caravan](#), November 27, 2018

Weekly Video Addresses

- [Setting the Record on CHIP](#) January 12, 2018
- [The Memo](#) January 19, 2018
- [Government Shutdown](#) January 20, 2018
- [Ensuring Emergency Preparedness](#) January 26, 2018
- [State of the Union Recap](#) January 30, 2018
- [Update on the Memo](#) February 7, 2018
- [Situation in Parkland, Florida](#) February 15, 2018
- [Partnering with Sec. Azar](#) February 23, 2018
- [Remembering Rev. Billy Graham](#) March 2, 2018
- [Combating the Opioid Crisis](#) March 9, 2018
- [Modernizing American Infrastructure](#) March 16, 2018
- [Funding our Government](#) March 22, 2018
- [Update on Austin Bombings](#) March 23, 2018
- [Our Fight Against the Opioid Epidemic](#) April 6, 2018
- [Protecting American Consumers in the Digital Age](#) April 13, 2018
- [Confronting Evil Acts in Syria](#) April 20, 2018
- [Preparing North Texas](#) May 4, 2018
- [Update on Our Fight Against the Opioid Crisis](#) May 10, 2018
- [Bolstering the American Economy](#) May 11, 2018
- [Honoring Law Enforcement Officers](#) May 18, 2018
- [Improving Care for America's Veterans](#) May 21, 2018
- [Reflections on American Service](#) May 25, 2018
- [Fighting Childhood Cancer](#) June 1, 2018
- [Protecting American Borders](#) June 8, 2018
- [American Diplomacy in North Korea](#) June 15, 2018
- [Celebrating American Independence](#) June 29, 2018
- [Empowering Energy Efficiency](#) July 13, 2018
- [American Relations with Russia](#) July 19, 2018
- [Delivering on Promises](#) August 24, 2018
- [Remembering John McCain](#) August 31, 2018
- [Supporting American Workers](#) September 1, 2018
- [Being Ready in North Texas](#) September 14, 2018
- [Building Safer Communities](#) September 21, 2018
- [Investing in American Success](#) September 28, 2018
- [Protecting American Skies](#) September 28, 2018
- [Reducing Maternal Mortality Across the U.S.](#) October 12, 2018
- [A Step Closer to Securing American Borders](#) October 19, 2018
- [An Economy That Works for North Texas](#) October 26, 2018
- [Reflections on the Squirrel Hill Attack](#) October 29, 2018
- [Correcting the Record](#) October 31, 2018
- [Honoring North Texas Veterans](#) November 9, 2018
- [Serving North Texas](#) November 16, 2018
- [Giving Thanks](#) November 20, 2018



Meetings and Events

Below is some footage from events held this year.

- [Emergency Preparedness Summit](#), April 28, 2018
- [Academy Appointee Reception](#), June 1, 2018
- [Denton Town Hall](#), June 18, 2018
- [Keller/Fort Worth Town Hall](#), July 31, 2018
- [Little Elm/Frisco Town Hall](#), August 2, 2018



Awards Received



I am honored to have been awarded credentials from organizations and groups for the common-sense and pro-growth work I do on behalf of North Texas. A few of the awards I received this year come from the following groups and associations: the American Conservative Union, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, the International Foodservice Distributors Association, and the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Connect With Me

www.burgess.house.gov

 @michaelcburgess  facebook.com/michaelcburgess  youtube.com/MichaelCBurgessMD  @repmichaelburgess

Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

2018

YEAR-END REPORT

Working for North Texas



**WASHINGTON, D.C.
OFFICE**
2161 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

**LAKE DALLAS DISTRICT
OFFICE**
2000 South Stemmons Freeway,
Suite 200
Lake Dallas, Texas



Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.